

CELEBRATING THE JEFFERSON
AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST'S
150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th Anniversary of the Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ located in my hometown of Cookeville, Tennessee. What began as a small number of Christians meeting in 1871 is now a strong institution providing generations with a place to practice their faith and be a part of a supportive community.

In their early years, the church shared a building with a Methodist church on what today is known as Lowe Avenue. In 1874, the congregation moved to a new building north of the county square on the corner of Washington and Freeze Street. In 1908, to accommodate their growing congregation, the church built a new place of worship on Broad Street and took the name Broad Street Church of Christ.

In 1909, seeing the need and benefit of higher education, Jere Whitson and other members of the Broad Street congregation led the founding of the University of Dixie, commonly called Dixie College and now known as Tennessee Technological University. The school currently has an enrollment of over 10,000 students and offers a wide variety of degrees at different levels from eight academic schools and colleges. I am proud to be an alumnus from this university and take pride in their founding and traditions.

As the area grew, the Broad Street Church of Christ congregation moved to plant other congregations in the area. They acquired land, supported construction of new church buildings, and identified members of Broad Street who were willing to be the initial members of the new congregations. These church plants are still active today. As the Broad Street building aged, the members decided in 1962 it was time to move south to the current location at 521 South Jefferson.

Today, the Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ, led by the ministry team of Andy Brewster as the pulpit minister, Evan Burns as associate minister, Jesse Bates as youth minister, and Bo Perez as the Spanish-language minister, continues its commitment to mission work worldwide. Currently, it supports 30 ministers, 40 congregations, and a bible school in Nicaragua by providing humanitarian aid and training. They support nine preachers and a preaching school in Panama and the San Blas Islands. Jefferson Avenue also is committed to Healing Hands International and their work in developing countries, providing access to clean water and medical supplies. They continue to spread the word of God throughout the world through support of World Christian Broadcasting as well as Gospel Chariot Ministries who offer mobile evangelistic teams.

The Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ is also making a difference here at home. When Gatlinburg Church of Christ lost its building to the 2016 wildfires, Jefferson Avenue was moved to assist in the rebuilding of their congregation. In March of 2020, when tornados in Cookeville resulted in tragic loss of life, Jefferson Avenue served as one of many distribution centers for emergency supplies. It also helped with direct assistance to many in need.

Christian organizations like The Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ are the bedrock of our communities in Middle Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I would like you to join me in honoring and congratulating the Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ for 150 years of dedication and commitment to spreading the gospel right here at home and abroad.

RECOGNIZING THE BUFFALO
STATE COLLEGE
SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor of my own alma mater, Buffalo State College, to recognize 150 years of education and service to the Western New York Community.

Buffalo State College, a member of the State University of New York (SUNY) system, opened in 1871 as the Buffalo Normal School to train teachers for the area's growing public school system. Now the largest comprehensive four-year college in the SUNY system, Buffalo State educates over 9,000 undergraduate and graduate students each year. In addition to their renown Special Education program, the school offers 79 undergraduate majors, 11 post baccalaureate teacher certification programs, and 64 graduate programs.

Education is perhaps one of life's greatest gifts and for the past 150 years, Buffalo State College has committed to providing access to quality public higher education, giving a countless number of students the opportunity for engaged and applied learning. As an alumnus myself, I have seen first-hand just how great of an institution Buffalo State really is. Its ability to improve and evolve each year with ever changing educational practices deserves the highest honor.

Buffalo State is known for its strong community connections and commitment to life-long learning. Graduates become scholars, leaders, and global citizens. The educational community encompasses a diverse range of students and faculty. It is this commitment to diversity and inclusivity that has made Buffalo State into the institution it is today. This diversity creates a learning environment where all people are welcome and helps to foster the growth of a knowledgeable, understanding community.

It is attributes like this that have enabled Buffalo State to become a pristine institution within the Western New York Community for many years. I sincerely congratulate the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of Buffalo State College on being a part of the school's storied history, and I look forward to seeing how Buffalo State continues to grow and develop throughout the future. Go Bengals.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF 9/11
VICTIMS ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY
OF SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the tragic events of September 11th, 2001, as we honor the loved ones lost 20 years ago.

The horrific events that unfolded that day claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 Americans and forever impacted many more. The senseless terrorist attacks that took place in New York City, Washington, D.C., and a field in Pennsylvania fundamentally altered our nation. Commercial airliners were weaponized, our Pentagon attacked, and the World Trade Center Towers fell. Yet, in one of America's darkest hours, Americans were united by God, heroism and compassion.

As we take a moment to commemorate the great losses our nation suffered 20 years ago, we also continue to be inspired by the raw strength and resilience displayed by our great nation in the grief and aftermath. To this day, America's fortitude continues to set an international example, even during trying times.

While this day is still difficult and we cannot bring back those precious American lives that were tragically lost by the brutal attacks, we must never forget their sacrifice and those that protect our freedom. I commend the participants of Lake Havasu City's 9/11 Rededication Ceremony for honoring the memory of the Americans lost on the twentieth anniversary of the September 11th, 2001 attacks.

May God continue to comfort the families who lost loved ones and may God bless the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEEL
HAJRA'S 11 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE ANN ARBOR AREA COM-
MUNITY FOUNDATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Neel Hajra, the outgoing CEO of the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. His significant contributions to our community are worthy of commendation.

Mr. Hajra came to the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation in 2011 and became CEO in 2015. He is a two-time graduate of the University of Michigan who started his career as an attorney with the Ford Motor Company. During a sabbatical from that job, he developed a love for community and the nonprofit sector. He later took a job at Nonprofit Enterprise at Work (NEW), where he remained for nine years before joining the Foundation.

As CEO of the Community Foundation, his determination to create positive community change is infectious. Among his numerous successful endeavors includes establishing a scholarship program that increased graduation rates for underserved students, and launching a resilient support system for Washtenaw